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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Klaus P. HIRTH  
Title: METHOD FOR MOLECULAR DIAGNOSIS OF TUMOR ANGIOGENESIS AND METASTASIS  
Appl. No.: To be assigned  
Continuation of Application Serial No. 09/336,650  
Filing Date: April 11, 2001  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments be entered into the application:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please delete claims 1-19 in their entirety without prejudice or disclaimer and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please substitute for original claim 20, the following rewritten version of the same claim, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Versions With Markings to Show Changes Made."

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20. (Amended) A method of diagnosing metastasis at a site distal from a primary tumor in a human comprising:  
a) administering a detectably labeled ligand which specifically recognizes VEGF to the human; and